

2006 BUDGET

Committee on the Budget: Committee ordered favorably reported an original concurrent resolution setting forth the fiscal year 2006 budget for the Federal Government.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee ordered favorably reported the following bills:

S. 148, to establish a United States Boxing Commission to administer the Act;

S. 361, to develop and maintain an integrated system of ocean and coastal observations for the Nation's coasts, oceans and Great Lakes, improve warnings of tsunamis and other natural hazards, enhance homeland security, support maritime operations;

S. 39, to establish a coordinated national ocean exploration program within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration;

S. 362, to establish a program within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the United States Coast Guard to help identify, determine sources of, assess, reduce, and prevent marine debris and its adverse impacts on the marine environment and navigation safety, in coordination with non-Federal entities, with an amendment;

S. 50, to authorize and strengthen the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's tsunami detection, forecast, warning, and mitigation program, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 268, to provide competitive grants for training court reporters and closed captioners to meet requirements for realtime writers under the Telecommunications Act of 1996, with amendments; and

Nominations in the Coast Guard and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Also, Committee adopted its rules of procedures for the 109th Congress.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Measures Introduced: 55 public bills, H.R. 1212–1266; 1 private bill, H.R. 1267; and 9 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 91–94, and H. Res. 146–150 were introduced. **Pages H1368–71**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H1371–72**

Reports Filed: No reports were filed today.

Journal: Agreed to the Speaker's approval of the Journal by a yea-and-nay vote of 365 yeas to 39 nays, with one voting "present", Roll No. 61. **Pages H1267–68**

Member Sworn—Fifth Congressional District of California: Representative-elect Doris O. Matsui presented herself in the well of the House and was administered the Oath of Office by the Speaker. Earlier the Clerk of the House transmitted a facsimile copy of the semi-final official returns of the Special Election held on March 8, 2005 from the Honorable Cathy Mitchell, Acting Secretary of State, State of California. **Page H1268**

Privileged Report Filing: Agreed that the Committee on Appropriations have until midnight on March 11 to file a report on a bill making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005. **Page H1269**

Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users: The House passed H.R. 3, to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, by a yea-and-nay vote of 417 yeas to 9 nays, Roll No. 65. The measure was also debated on Wednesday, March 9. **Pages H1272–H1324**

Rejected the Higgins motion to recommit the bill to the Committees on Transportation & Infrastructure and Ways & Means with instructions to report the bill back to the House promptly with amendments, by a recorded vote of 190 yeas to 235 noes, Roll No. 64. **Pages H1322–24**

It was agreed during consideration of the bill that the final period of general debate be in order before the disposition of amendments. **Page H1314**

Accepted:

Young of Alaska manager's amendment (No. 1 printed in H. Rept. 109–15) that makes a number of adjustments and technical changes (it was later agreed by unanimous consent to modify the amendment); **Pages H1277–H1300, H1313–14**

Issa amendment (No. 5 printed in H. Rept. 109–15) that expresses the Sense of Congress that the Department of Transportation and the States should provide additional incentives to encourage the purchase and use of hybrid and other fuel efficient vehicles; **Pages H1303–05**

Burgess amendment (No. 3 printed in H. Rept. 109–15) that changes the current calculation to a

pro rata calculation, reflecting a state's level of investment in a toll facility (a requested recorded vote was later vacated and the amendment was agreed to by voice vote); **Pages H1302–03, H1305**

Pascrell amendment (No. 6 printed in H. Rept. 109–15) that allows states to enact anti-corruption laws curbing the practice of “pay-to-play” contracting without losing their federal-aid highway dollars; **Pages H1305–06**

Rogers (MI) amendment (No. 7 printed in H. Rept. 109–15) that prohibits the sale or use of a traffic signal preemption transmitter by a non-government approved user; **Page H1306**

Honda amendment (No. 9 printed in H. Rept. 109–15) that provides that basic grant funds authorized under the Alcohol-Impaired Driving Countermeasures section can be used for Driving While Intoxicated Courts that seek to change the behavior of alcohol or drug dependent offenders arrested while driving while impaired; and **Pages H1307–08**

Barton amendment (No. 10 printed in H. Rept. 109–15) that provides that assessments of risks to human health or the environment pursuant to research or studies under the surface transportation environment and planning and cooperative research program, and subsequent use of such studies, follow sound and objective scientific practices and describe the weight of the scientific evidence (a requested recorded vote was later vacated and the amendment was agreed to by voice vote). **Pages H1308–10, H1313**

Tom Davis of Virginia amendment (No. 2 printed in H. Rept. 109–15) that removes the requirement that toll rates on high occupancy toll lanes be differentiated for low income drivers (by a recorded vote of 224 ayes to 201 noes, Roll No. 62); and **Pages H1300–02, H1321–22**

Pitts amendment (No. 8 printed in H. Rept. 109–15) that provides small transit systems with additional time to find alternative solutions to address the financial crisis they face when losing flexibility in the use of Section 5307, federal transit funds (by a recorded vote of 228 ayes, to 97 noes, Roll No. 63). **Pages H1306–07, H1322**

Withdrawn:

Burgess amendment (No. 4 printed in H. Rept. 109–15) that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that would have eliminated some federal restrictions on state procurement procedures for “design-build contracts,” in which contractors both design and construct facilities; **Pages H1303–04**

Shadegg amendment (No. 11 printed in H. Rept. 109–15) that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that would have revised the formula by which funds are allocated under the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program to include

areas in non-attainment or maintenance for fine and coarse particulate matter; and **Pages H1310–11**

Flake amendment (No. 12 printed in H. Rept. 109–15) that subtracts the amount that states receive in earmarks from their formula totals in the Surface Transportation Program. **Pages H1311–13**

The Clerk was authorized to make technical corrections and conforming changes, as may be necessary to reflect the actions of the House, in the engrossment of the bill. **Page H1325**

H. Res. 144, the rule providing for further consideration of the bill was agreed to by voice vote. **Pages H1272–76**

Meeting Hour: Agreed that when the House adjourn today, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Monday, March 14 for Morning Hour debate; and further that when it adjourn on Monday, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, March 15 for Morning Hour debate as though after May 16, 2005, thereafter to resume its session at 10 a.m. **Page H1326**

Calendar Wednesday: Agreed to dispense with the Calendar Wednesday business of Wednesday, March 16. **Page H1326**

Condolences of the House to the families of victims of the terrorist attacks in Madrid on March 11, 2004: The House agreed to H. Res. 99, expressing the condolences of the House of Representatives to the families of the victims of the terrorist attacks in Madrid that occurred one year ago, on March 11, 2004, and expressing deepest sympathy to the individuals injured in those attacks and to the people of the Kingdom of Spain. **Page H1326**

Agreed to the McCotter amendment that replaces the preamble of the resolution. **Pages H1326–27**

Board of Trustees of Gallaudet University—Appointment: The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of Representative LaHood to the Board of Trustees of Gallaudet University. **Page H1327**

Privileged Report Filing: Agreed that the Committee on the Budget have until 4 p.m. on March 12 to file a report on a bill making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005. **Page H1327**

Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution—Appointment: The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of the following Members of the House to the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution: Representatives Regula, Sam Johnson (TX), and Becerra. **Page H1352**

Presidential Message: Read a message from the President wherein he notified Congress of the continuation of the national emergency with respect to

Iran—referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered printed (H. Doc. 109–15).

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Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yea-and-nay vote and three recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H1267–68, H1321–22, H1322, H1323–24, and H1324. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

Committee Meetings

METHYL BROMIDE USE EXEMPTION

Committee on Agriculture: Subcommittee on Conservation, Credit, Rural Development and Research held a hearing to access the Methyl Bromide Critical Use Exemption (CUE) process under the Montreal Protocol. Testimony was heard from Claudia McMurray, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Environment, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, Department of State; and public witnesses.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FDA, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies held a hearing on the Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services. Testimony was heard from Eric Bost, Under Secretary, Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services, USDA.

DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense held a hearing on Navy/Marine Corps Posture. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of the Navy: Gordon R. England, Secretary; ADM. Vernon Clark, USN. Chief of Naval Operations; and Gen. Michael W. Hagee, USMC, Commandant of the Marine Corps.

The Subcommittee also met in executive session to hold a hearing on Navy/Marine Corps Acquisition. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of the Navy: John J. Young, Assistant Secretary; and VADM Joseph A. Sestak, Jr., USN, Deputy Chief, Naval Operations, Warfare Requirements and Programs (N6/N7); and BG William Catto, USMC, Commanding General, Marine Corps Systems Command.

LABOR, HHS, EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on the Department of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies held a hearing on the Secretary of Education. Testimony was heard from Margaret Spellings, Secretary of Education.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCY APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies met in executive session to hold a hearing on Department of Energy—National Nuclear Security Administration. Testimony was heard from Linton F. Brooks, Under Secretary, Nuclear Security and Administrator, National Nuclear Security Administrator, Department of Energy.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on The Department of Homeland Security held a hearing on the U.S. Coast Guard. Testimony was heard from ADM Thomas Collin, USCG, Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security.

The Subcommittee also held a hearing on Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Testimony was heard from Michael Garcia, Secretary, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security.

INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies held a hearing on the National Endowment for the Arts. Testimony was heard from Dana Gioia, Chairman, National Endowment for the Arts.

The Subcommittee also held a hearing on the National Endowment for the Humanities. Testimony was heard from Bruce Cole, Chairman, National Endowment for the Humanities.

MILITARY QUALITY OF LIFE, AND VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Military Quality of Life, and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies held a hearing on the European Command Gen. James L. Jones, Jr., USMC, Supreme Allied Commander, Europe and Commander, U.S. European Command, Department of Defense.

The Subcommittee also held a hearing on the Pacific Command. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of the Navy: ADM William J. Fallon, USN, Commander, U.S.